

Application No. 09/838,346
Reply to Office Action of 08/25/2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend Pages 4, 5, 9,10, 12, and 13 of the specification as follows:

On Page 4, amend first paragraph as follows:

The instant invention relates to a system, including a vehicle dash panel, for use with at least one ~~cell-phone~~ dictation recorder. The system more particularly includes a dash panel body having at least one elongate recess within a surface of said panel body, said recess having a primary axis thereof positioned at a diagonal relative to a horizontal plane of the vehicle having said dash panel. Said recess defines inner lateral surfaces which are proportioned for press-fittable receipt of at least forty percent of the mass of said ~~cell-phone~~ dictation recorder. Said recess further includes a mouth and a distal base each substantially transverse to said inner lateral surfaces and said axis of the recess. Said distal base is proportioned for complemental mechanical and electrical receipt of a charging ~~end~~ surface of said ~~cell-phone~~ recorder. Speaker/amplifier means, in electrical communication with the audio inputs and outputs of the ~~cell-phone~~ recorder, are further provided. In a preferred embodiment, each of the mechanical aspects of the above, inclusive of battery charging means for the cell phone, are positioned within the sound or audio module of the vehicle.

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On Page 4, amend paragraph 2 as follows:

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a vehicle-panel body within which a ~~cell-phone~~ dictation recorder may be selectably press-fittably secured to effect "hands free" operation thereof.

On Page 5, please amend first paragraph as follows:

It is another object to provide a system of the above type in which the audio inputs and outputs the recorder or a cell phone are in electrical communication with the audio speaker system of the vehicle.

On Page 5, please amend third paragraph as follows:

It is a still further object to provide a system of the above type inclusive of means for selectable recording of conversation occurring during use of the recorder or cell phone, for the making of notes after or without reference to such phone call, and for the selectable recordation of material originating from the radio, an audio tape, or compact disk during otherwise normal use of the vehicle sound system.

On Page 5, please amend fourth paragraph as follows:

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a system of the above type in which the cell phone securing means also includes means for selectable charging of the recorder and/or cell phone.

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On Page 9, please amend second paragraph as follows:

To the left of Fig. 2 is shown a cellular telephone ("cell phone") 28 which has been placed into a diagonal recess 30, more fully described below. Further shown in Fig. 2 is the optional use of a second recess 32, (more fully described below), to place therein in a ~~dictaphone~~ dictation recorder or other recording means 34.

On Page 9, please amend third paragraph as follows:

Said digital recesses 30 and 32 are more particularly shown in Fig. 3 (which is a transverse cross-sectional view of a panel-dash body 10 within which audio module 12 is supported. Therein may be seen said diagonal recesses 30 and 32 within which cell phone 28 and ~~dictaphone/recording~~ dictation recorder 34 respectively may be placed. It has been determined that if the longitudinal axis of the recesses is at an ergonomically appropriate angle of about 30 degrees relative to the horizontal plane defined by the floor of the vehicle, at least forty percent of the mass of the cell phone 28 or ~~recording means~~ dictation recorder 34 must be disposed within the recess 30 and 32. As such, the combination of a slip fit, light frictional engagement with sidewalls 38 of the recesses, an angle of approximately 30 degrees, and the inclusion of at least forty percent of the mass of the cell phone or recording means within the respective recess will assure stability thereof relative to audio panel 12.

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On Page 10, amend first paragraph as follows:

Additional stability is assured through the provision of electrical charging contacts 40 within distal base 44 of the recess, and their mechanical interface with complemental charging contacts (not shown) at distal end 42 of the cell phone 28. As may be noted in Fig. 3, said charging contacts 40 are disposed within distal base 44 of said diagonal recess 30 and, as such, represent the only visible portion of electronics package 46 of the system which, in accordance with means well known within the state-of-the-art, provide charging capability to the cell phone, and electrical communication of the auto inputs and outputs of the phone through an amplifier (not shown), to the audio speaker system of the vehicle. Said electronic package thereby operates to increase the audio sensitivity of the recorder or cell phone such that "hands free" or speakerphone type operation is facilitated. The electronics and technology of speakerphones are well known in the art and, accordingly, is not set forth at length herein. Alternatively, increasing numbers of recorder and cell phones are today manufactured with "hands free," also known as voice actuation, capability the significance thereof being that, in furtherance of the objects of the present invention, such a voice actuated speakerphone or amplification of said audio ~~inputs~~ inputs and outputs cell phone 28 or recorder 34 is essential in order to enable otherwise conventional telephone conversation to occur while cell phone 28 is secured within diagonal recess 30 of the audio module 12.

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On Page 12, amend the first paragraph as follows:

such as names, addresses, phone numbers, flight numbers and the like. Therefore, the present system, in addition to addressing the safety issues, associated with holding of a cell phone or ~~dictaphone~~ dictation means while driving, also substantially reduces a related problem, namely, that of persons making notes while driving regarding information that they have just received during the use of the cell phone.

On Page 12, amend paragraph 3 as follows:

The function of button S is to actuate the handsfree of speakerphone function of the system. In that it is anticipated virtually all future cell phones will be equipped with hands free operation, the S or speaker function of the system will be particularly applicable to older cell phones and to cell phones not equipped with hands free voice actuation having sufficient associated volume for the driver to conduct a normal conversation with all parties. Also, the S button will be of particular value to hearing impaired persons who require additional volume from their dictation recorder or cell phone.

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On Page 13, amend second paragraph as follows:

In Fig. 4 is shown an alternate embodiment of the present system in which the audio module 112 is provided with a single diagonal recess 130 within which cell phone 28 may be inserted. This it is believed will prove to be ~~the most~~ a popular form of the present invention in that it is primarily business people who will require the additional recess 32 of Figs. 2-3 for recording means or an additional recess for insertion of a second cell phone within the audio module. Other features of the audio module 112 are similar to those shown in the embodiment of Fig. 2, however, some of the functions, particularly, the C and R2 functions have been re-positioned. Therein, the R1 function, namely, the record function and the S function, namely, the speaker phone function, are disposed to the left of radio channel/band selection buttons 126, while the C and R2 buttons are disposed to the right thereof. It is to be appreciated that numerous other configurations of the various control and input elements of audio module 12 or 112 may be effected by those of skill in the art.